



DC Primary Elections, Tues. Apr. 3

The District of Columbia will hold primaries for President and for local offices on Tues. Apr. 3. On Jan. 4 the DC Board of Elections and Ethics reported that the following Republican candidates for President will appear on the DC ballot: Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Rick Perry. Barack Obama will appear on the Democratic Party primary ballot. The DC Statehood Green party will list Jill Stein for President.

Filing for the primary election for Delegate to the US House of Representatives are Eleanor H. Norton, Democratic Party, and Natale Lino Stracuzzi, DC Statehood Green Party.

All 8 wards will see the following competing for four-year terms in Council-at-Large seats:

DC Statehood – G. Lee Atkin, Ann C. Wilcox; Democratic – Sekou Biddle, E. Gail Anderson Holness, Vincent Orange, Peter Shapiro; Republican – Mary Brooks Beatty

Ward Council races will occur in Wards 2, 4, 7, and 8. In 2012 the Mayor's office, Council Chair, two at-large Council seats and the Council seats for Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6 are in mid-term. They will be on the ballot in 2014.

(Information from the DC Board of Elections and Ethics, 441 4th Street NW, DC 20001, Tel: (202) 727-2525, <http://www.dcboee.org/home.asp>)

A Few of the Prominent SW Blacks in History

February, Black History Month nationally, is a good time to review the prominent role of African Americans in the history of the SWDC Waterfront neighborhood.

From the pages of the Southwester, here are excerpts about Black History in SWDC.

Marvin Gaye – Soul music superstar Marvin Gaye (1939–1984) spent part of his childhood at Syphax Gardens, a walk-up public housing apartment complex on P St. SW, constructed in 1960.

The Southwester Apr 2008 p. 4:



Marvin Gaye

SWNA Honors Justice Thurgood Marshall

The monthly meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly for February, Black History Month, was devoted to honoring Justice Thurgood Marshall, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as the first African American on the US Supreme Court. Representing the NAACP Marshall had won a string of civil rights cases before the US Supreme Court, including Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka, “the landmark case that demolished the legal basis for segregation in America.”

SWNA has dedicated a call box close to the Marshall home at the 100 block of G Street SW.

Roger Wilkins Moves The Crowd

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was a mentor and model to young attorney Roger Wilkins. And now thirty years later as Professor Wilkins with gray hair and a distinguished career of his own, Roger Wilkins moved the crowd at the Southwest Assembly meeting in Feb. with his intimate portrait of the great Justice Marshall. Roger Wilkins is a Professor at George Mason University, served as Assistant Attorney General under President L B Johnson, wrote for The New York Times, Washington Post and Washington Star and is an award winning author. He has been a resident of Southwest DC for 30 years.

S.W. Remembers Wiley Branton, 1923-1988

By Thelma Jones

Southwest has named its local Community Development Corporation after one of our famous former residents, civil rights lawyer **Wiley A. Branton**.

Branton was the principal lawyer in the civil rights case that desegregated the public schools in Little Rock, Ark., in 1956. President Dwight Eisenhower sent in 1,000 federal paratroopers to prevent Gov. Faubus of Arkansas from using the state National Guard to block the black children from entering Central High School.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Branton – who later became Dean of the Howard University School of Law – went to court to defend freedom riders and Blacks who were helping in voter registration drives in the South. Branton served in civil rights posts

Continued on Page 3

Comprehensive M Street Transportation Study Begins – Finally

By Andy Litsky

On January 12, more than 130 neighborhood residents turned out at Westminster Presbyterian Church for the first in a series of community meetings kicking off a nine month M Street SE/SW Transportation Study. Conducted as part of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, it will seek to update the traffic analysis of the SW/SE Waterfront area to identify and address current and future transportation challenges. The area under study spans virtually all of ANC-6D from the Southwest/Southeast Freeway south to the Anacostia River/Washington Channel from 12th Street, SE on the east to 14th Street, SW on the west..

If any of this sounds remotely familiar, during the past decade there have been more



than thirty independent, developer-led transportation studies each focusing on individual projects along the M Street Corridor. But there's been not one comprehensive study by the District government. For ten years ANC 6D has called upon the Office of Planning and DDOT to think more globally and pro-

Continued on Page 8

Editorial by SWNA President

During the holiday crush, the editors of the Southwester resigned citing increased work responsibilities. The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly very much appreciated their service over the past year. They spearheaded or welcomed many improvements to the Southwester, most notably a new interactive Southwester web presence.

We are once again at a crossroads. For nearly fifty years, the Southwester has been a community paper, written, edited and supported by local residents. First published in 1964, it's been considered an integral civic activity of the Assembly since its inception.

A recent meeting on the future of the Southwester only confirmed the Southwester's importance. Indeed, it's remarkable that in this new digital age, the Southwester remains the news source of record — whether it's local youth's scrambling to see a picture of their team on the front cover before they're placed in the dispenser boxes or older citizens who stash a way cherished articles. While online stories or debates can generate substantial interest, their ephemeral character demands a more permanent record. And online formats remain out of reach for many elderly and low-income residents.



Kael Anderson

The Southwester is a considerable operation with the editor position as its backbone. And with the Southwester's evolution, the traditional role of the editor has become recognized as a 'full-time job'. In addition, the Southwester has a business component: principally sales, distribution, and general financial operations. Here again, the withdrawal of the business manager contributed to the editors' burdens.

We are indebted to Editor Emeritus Dale MacIver

for agreeing to serve as the acting editor for the January and February editions. He is perhaps Southwest's most humble leader. Perry Klein, another life-long community servant has been covering ad sales and continuing to manage distribution. Jo Chang, SWNA's esteemed treasurer has been serving as the acting business manager.

Going forward, the Assembly's January board meeting revealed a commitment to continuing the legacy of the Southwester as a civic enterprise. We're exploring a number of alternatives to create discrete and manageable roles so that Southwest can continue to have a community newspaper.

We ask you to consider how you can participate. Send me, Kael Anderson, an email at andkael@gmail.com or phone me at 202-550-3653.

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When you walk into the office of Jackson Hewitt Tax Service on 8th Street, Iris Burnell greets you with a big warm smile. Burnell is a graduate of Howard University in Accounting, and has been the Franchise General Manager of the Capitol Hill office since 1995. (SW residents will remember the Jackson Hewitt office in the old Waterside Mall)

"The main difference between a tax service like Jackson Hewitt and over-the counter tax software is that your first interaction is with a human being, a certified tax preparer. Tax preparation services exist because tax returns are complicated and the penalties that exist because of inaccuracies are



high enough that people turn to professionals like us to help them," says Burnell.

"As a time saver and measure of convenience, this year we are providing a pick-up service by one of the top courier services in DC. We will pick up your tax records for FREE."

The office is located at 725 8th St, SE, across 8th St. SE from the Marine Barracks, a few blocks south of Eastern Market Metro Station. One block away at I (Eye) St. & 8th is a large lot with open metered parking. The hours during tax season are from 9 am – 9:00 pm. Connect with the Capitol Hill office on Facebook at Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, Capitol Hill.

SW BLACK HISTORY

From p. 1

in the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. He was a resident of Southwest, D.C., for 18 years, and a member of the board of the Southwest Community Council, Inc., which was later renamed the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Other prominent Blacks listed in a 1968 Southwester story as calling Southwest their

home at the time are **Bernie Fulton, James Banks, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Rev. June Jefferson, U.S. Senator Ed Brooks, Julius Hobson, Granville Woodson, Congressman John Conyers, and Dr. David Dabney.**

Dorothy I. Height

The front page of the June, 2005, issue of The Southwester reports on her appearance at a SWNA meeting: "An enthralled audience heard world-famous civil rights leader (and resident

of 7th St. S.W., DC) Dr. Dorothy Height tell of her involvement of the Civil Rights Movement from the earliest days. Selma, Atlanta, and meetings with US presidents from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush are all in the fabric of her life memories. Dr. Height became head of the NCNW and is active in it today. The important leadership role of women in the civil rights movement - even though the names in the headlines were usually men — was emphasized in her talk at St. Matthew's Church. The event was a belated Black History Month affair."

The Southwester

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Hearings on Decking Maryland Ave. SW

(From a release)

On Wed. Feb. 1 and the D.C. Office of Planning (OP) will hold a hearing in Southwest to discuss a plan to reconstruct a major missing link in the L'Enfant street grid, Maryland Ave. SW, and create a more diverse land use mix in the heart of the "Southwest Rectangle" between the National Mall and Southwest Waterfront. The study area is bounded by 4th and 12th Streets, SW, along the historic Maryland Ave. SW corridor. The draft plan identifies redevelopment opportunities, open space improvements, zoning tools and the next steps necessary to achieve a livable mixed-use neighborhood.

OP is providing the public with a 30-day public comment period on the Draft Maryland Avenue SW Plan. Comments must be postmarked to OP or e-mailed to Joyce.Tsepas@dc.gov by Feb. 3.

In addition to receiving written comments on the Draft Maryland Avenue SW Plan, OP will also host a Mayoral Hearing to receive oral testimony on the plan on Feb. 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 1100 4th St. SW in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room.

To view the PDF of the 60 page Draft plan, Google "Maryland Ave. SW Plan."

Obituary: Dr. Pearl Perry, SW Tenant Activist

(From the obituary submitted to the Washington Post by her family)

Dr. Pearl Wisham Perry, 80, retired health policy expert for the federal government, died at Georgetown University Hospital on Nov. 25, 2011 of complications from acute myeloid leukemia.

Originally from Arkansas, Dr. Perry earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Ohio State University, and later a Master's Degree in Administrative Medicine and a Doctorate in Health Planning and Policy from the School of Public Health of Columbia University, in 1970 and 1976 respectively.

She moved to Washington, DC in 1972

Continued on Page 11



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Being On Time - A Life Skill That Begins In Kindergarten

One of the most used measures of job success is "being on time." Employers value a worker on every level who comes to work every day and is there when his/her work begins.

This habit is formed in the earliest years of a child's schooling. We all know that a Pre-Kindergartener can't decide when to leave for school, but he does learn from his parents/caregivers an understanding of the importance of getting to school, which is, after all, the student's "job."

In today's classroom, learning begins right after the "bell rings" at 8:45 AM. At Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, every child is served breakfast without cost to the family in their classroom. This is both a time as well as a cost saving for busy families trying to get, sometimes several, children ready for school every morning!

During the breakfast time, important announcements are made and the goals for the day are introduced. This blends seamlessly into important instruction in the basic foundation skills such as phonics, writing and math. Much of the most valuable instruction occurs in the first 45 minutes of the school day. Not being there effects all the learning for the rest of the day.

Pre-K - K classes begin the day using the "Tools for the Mind" curriculum where they learn how to work with others and establish the habits of "self-regulation" that leads to future success in school.

Grade 1-2 - Start the day with the "Just Words" program, a program that teaches the phonics skills and the basic understanding of word structure.

Grade 3-5 - The students are divided into groups and begin either math or reading instruction. Missing time at the beginning of this period means that the student may miss the explanation of the work that he/she is supposed to complete.

Every measure of school success shows that children do better who attend regularly and are in class on time so that they are not missing valuable instruction. Parents and caregivers have the most influence and responsibility to see that their children are in their seats at 8:45 AM every school day. Amidon-Bowen records show that on most days nearly one-quarter of its students are not there ready to learn.

There are many reasons families have difficulty getting that sleepy kindergartener or second grader out the door. The school and your neighbors want to help to assure every student gets the maximum good out of his time at school. They stand ready to talk with you to help work out ways to solve this problem.

You can call on them at 202-724-4867, the Amidon-Bowen Office.

Eric Fishman, School Counselor

Cheryl Haynes, School Counselor

Tiffany Davis, Social Worker

Latetia Cureton-Alston, School Staff

Gloria Tobe, School Staff



Community Calendar - Jan. 26 - Feb. 29, 2012

JANUARY

THURS. 26 12:30 PM NARFE meeting, SW Branch Library, 3rd & K St. SW

SUN. 29 3:30 PM Free, open to the public, no ticket required, panel discussion by experts on artist Mark Rothko, following the 2 pm Matinee of RED, the play about Rothko's life. First in a similar Sun. discussion over following 5 Sundays.

TUES. 31 7 PM Alcoholic Beverage Control committee meeting, public welcome, King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, 200 N St. SW

FEBRUARY

WED. 1 6:30 - 8:30 PM Mayoral hearing on Maryland Ave. Plan - 1100 4th St. SW - 2nd floor meeting room

THURS. 2 8 AM - 9:30 AM Councilmember Tommy Wells Office Hours, Channel Inn, 650 Water St., SW

GROUNDHOG DAY - Will it see its shadow?

TUE. 7 7 PM Police Citizens Advisory Committee monthly meeting, First Dist. Headquarters, 201 M St., SW

MON. 13 7 PM Advisory Neighborhood Commission Meeting (ANC6D), open to public, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW.

TUES. 14 Valentine's Day

WED. 15 12 PM AARP meeting and lunch, River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW

THURS. 16 7 PM - 8:30 PM Police Service Area PSA 105 (formerly 104) Public Meeting, Town Square Towers Condos, 700 7th St. SW

MON 20 President's Day Holiday. No classes at D.C. Public Schools.

THURS. 23 12:30 PM NARFE meeting, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

MON. 27 6 - 9 PM "Building the SW Wharf by 2016" - see drawings - Arena Stage, Kreeger Theatre, free, 1101 6th St. SW, SWNA hosts Hoffman-Madison developers talking to the public

WED. 29 7 PM ABC Committee public Meeting, King-Greenleaf Rec. Center, 200 N St SW

WED. 29 7 - 8:30 PM Public meeting of the SW Emergency Preparedness Taskforce - SW Public Library, Wesley Place SW between K and I (Eye) SW.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

THE SOUTH WASHINGTON WEST OF THE RIVER FATHERHOOD PROGRAM, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, Tuesday and Thurs- day evenings. For more information, call Alphonso Coles at (202) 870-1885.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Contact Willie Mae Stukes, sewing teacher, at (??) Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and updating their hand and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except for July and August.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, (202) 484-7700.

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, Third Wednesday of each month, except for June, July and August, River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Elger Offutt at ee.offutt@comcast.net or (202) 285-4677.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, Jitterbug, Lindy hop. Saturdays, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/ class for adults, \$5/ class for children ages 8 - 17. Christ United Methodist community room off Wesley Pl., SW.

CHESS CLUB, SW Library main room, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. For all levels, even beginners.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Various blues musicians and singers featured each Monday, \$5. Food for sale.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, 4 p.m. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5:30 p.m. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 7 p.m. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). Free with donations welcome.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Various jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday, \$5. Food for sale.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade, and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block I St., SW (202) 291-6229.

Please submit calendar items for March events by email to editor@thesouthwester.com by February 14, 2012.

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SW ArtsFest 2012 Scheduled for September 29

SW ArtsFest has big plans for 2012.

Next September 29 will bring SW ArtsFest 2012. Participants in SW ArtsFest's January 11 annual meeting included representatives of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission; the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly; Arena Stage; Westminster Presbyterian, St. Augustine's Episcopal, and Christ United Methodist Churches; and TR SW, hosts of last year's (e)merge art fair and soon to build an art museum at the Randall Junior High School.

SW ArtsFest 2012 will feature a Central Art Market, with a stage for entertainment and announcements, and dozens of tents and tables, most for various kinds of art for sale. Close by, Westminster will host its annual Jazz Preservation Festival. Like last year, SW ArtsFest 2012 will include neighborhood walking tours and exciting offerings at Arena Stage and Christ United Methodist.

At its annual meeting, the ArtsFest board



of directors elected former ANC commissioner David Sobelsohn president and TR SW's John Vigilanti vice-president. The board also named Saadia Athias secretary and Josh Perry treasurer; both are new to the board. A Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) board member, Saadia Athias launched King Greenleaf Rec Center's arts and crafts program, orga-

nized Southwest Safety Walkers, and handled SW ArtsFest 2011's security and (with Perry Klein) photography. Josh Perry specializes in organizational communications and served as his college radio station's artist relations coordinator; he helps edit the International Journal of Peace Studies. The 2012 ArtsFest board also includes returning directors Kael Anderson, SWNA president; the Cherry Blossom Festival's Barbara Ehrlich; and Shane Pomajambo, of National Harbor's ArtWhino art gallery. New to the board since September: Reverend Brian Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian co-pastor, and Sam Gonzales, a social-media specialist with years of marketing experience, including with the music and film industry. Seven board members live in Southwest.

A successful SW ArtsFest 2012 will require participation from many Southwest residents, not just those on the board. To join the SW ArtsFest team, call 202-484-8303 or email swartsfest@gmail.com.

Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival

**Saturday April 7, 2012
2 – 9 PM**

Southwest Waterfront at 600-900 Water Street, SW along the historic Washington Channel accessible by Metro (L'Enfant Plaza or Waterfront-SEU) walking, bike or car.

Seven hours of free music, water-related activities, cultural experiences and four performance areas featuring live entertainment concluding with a Fireworks Spectacular over the Washington Channel.

The Kastles' Stadium Site – free seating for:

- A Rousing Musical Kick-Off at 2pm
- Popular Music with Top-Name Regional Bands at 3 and 4:30 pm
- Evening Finale Musical Salute at 6 and 7:30
- Cherry Blossom Beach with a Waterfront Beer and Saki Garden
- The Very Cherry Marketplace with DC's best Food trucks
- Cherry Blossom Festival Merchandise Market

At Gangplank Marina Park, at 6th & Water St. SW children play and viewers stand and enjoy the entertainment.

- Musical Entertainment from the stage at 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30pm:
- Boat Making and Launch
- Face Painting and Balloon Art
- Costumed Characters and Family-Focused Strolling Entertainment
- Food Offerings

The Washington Channel Stage — a floating barge moored in the Washington Channel that will serve as the backdrop for:

- Water-Related Sailing Activities and Boat Demonstrations
- Floating Theatrical Performances
- Pink Palooza from Docked and Moving Vessels
- Lighted Swimming Surprises

To view the floating stage in the Channel, people can stand along the sea wall promenade fencing to watch

7th Street Landing — a tree-lined waterfront park with shaded lounge seating and umbrella tables that will feature:

- Jazz and Blues at 2:45, 3:45 and 6:45pm produced by Jazz Night in Southwest
- The Fine Arts of Japanese Origami and Mukimono
- Japanese Candy Making Demonstrations
- Japanese Koinobori Making
- Grilled Foods and Seafood with Home-made Pink Desserts

THE WHARF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTICE REGARDING THE SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT Hosted by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

Monday, February 27 from 6-9pm

Arena Stage

1101 6th Street, SW

In the Kreeger Theater

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront will present updated plans and renderings submitted to the District of Columbia Zoning Commission as part of its Stage II PUD application for The Wharf.

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront 690 Water Street SW Washington, DC 20024 www.wharfdc.com

SWNA Hosts Waterfront PUD Feb. 27 at Arena Stage

At Arena Stage Kreeger Theatre SWNA will host a public viewing of SW Waterfront developer Hoffman-Madison's latest design proposal before the DC Zoning Commission, called PUD Stage 2 Phase 1. Groundbreaking will be held in late 2012-early 2013. It will take 3 years to build.

The main entrance to Arena Stage is on 6th St. SW, half a block north of M St. SW. A stop on the 74 Metro bus line is at M St. & 6th and L St. & Sixth. The Metro Waterfront Station on the Greenline is two blocks west on M St. and 4th.

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History of Town Center Parks in SW Washington

By Hayden M. Wetzel

The “Town Center Project” of 1960 built a commercial center at 4th St. SW, and then enlarged it to the old Waterside Mall in 1969. The design of three nearby parks and sites for two churches followed on this development plan.

The final arrangement of two churches flanked by three parks – Town Center West (now the Duck Pond) at 6th and I, Town Center East (now the S W Playground Project which has raised nearly \$130,000) at 3rd, and Town Center Center Park between the churches and covering 4th Street, with a landscaped walk connecting all three – was approved in 1961.

The National Park Service could not fund the new parks, and so RLA took possession of the land and contracted with Ian McHarg, “an eminent landscape architect,” to design them. When McHarg’s plans failed to impress the Agency, officials’ views of him soured: he “had previously been an instructor in [a] Forestry College” and “this is his first venture as a professional park architect,” noted the Park Service reviewer. (McHarg now is considered a seminal figure in mid-century American landscape design.) The job was turned over to William Roberts, another partner in the same firm (Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd, still operating). Roberts produced a new design in 1969.

Robert’s parks were well-received except for his Center Park, which centered on a “water feature” that the Commission of Fine Arts found “formal” and “too complicated.” In fact, Roberts had proposed mounting the unused Macmillan Fountain there – a classical marble fountain formerly at North Capitol and Bryant Streets and long in storage. The architect regretted the loss of his rather elaborate plan: “Given the bland and boring architecture that was being built, we thought . . . it [might] have given an identity and a degree of class to an otherwise boring plaza [the bare plaza formerly facing Waterside Mall],” he later wrote. In the end TC Center was built as a simple elevated plaza with trees and crossing walks, and the water feature – the Duck Pond

- put on TC West.

RLA annual reports promised commencement of work on these parks in almost every issue of the mid-60s, but work did not actually start until 1971 and they were dedicated the following year. (The name “Town Center Parks” was officially given in 1973.) RLA turned the parks over to the National Park Service in 1974, which returned them to city jurisdiction in 2008 – long after almost all the other Southwest parks had gone back to the District.

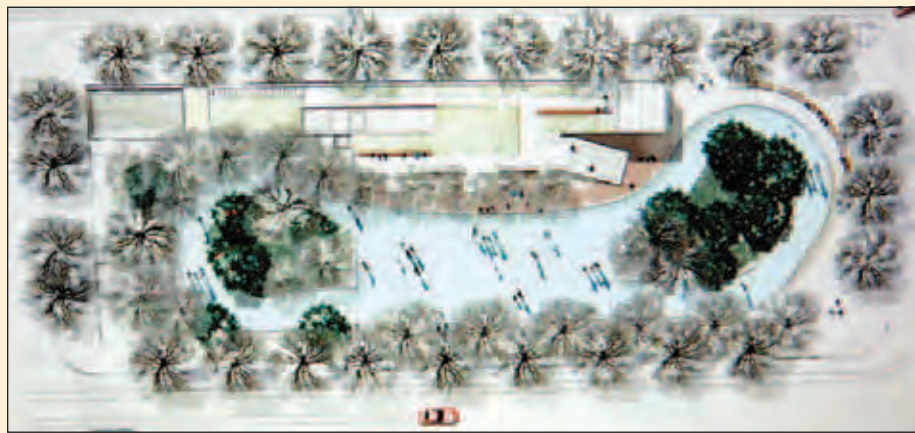
Town Center “Center” Park was largely destroyed in 2007 when the Waterside Mall was torn down and 4th Street restored to its old integrity; remnants remain on both sides of the street. TC East, near the library, will develop into a children’s playground. TC West – now generally known as “The Duck Pond” – has seen a resurgence of community interest, with its own Friends organization and improved maintenance. It is on the Cultural Landscape Foundation’s list of significant American landscapes.

The park’s designer, William Roberts, summed up his feelings in 2010: “It gives me great pleasure to witness the success of this park over the past 40 years. It’s greatest merit I believe is that the basic idea of celebrating the regional indigenous natural landscape has proven to be a success and a pleasure to all users. It is important to preserve and enhance the park for future generations.”

(This is the third of a series of five articles describing the history of parks in the 1950-70s Urban Renewal Project in Southwest Washington. Later articles will discuss Waterfront Parks and little Amidon Sidewalk Park.)

(The research for this project was conducted in documents of the government agencies involved in the Urban Renewal Project found in agency and other government archives and was conducted at the request of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. The author is a Washington tour guide and active preservationist.)

Next issue: Waterfront Parks



Canal Park in wintertime. This block next to M St. SE will be a skating rink.

Canal Park to Open Summer 2012

A new pavilion with a restaurant is due to open in the summer at Canal Park, at M St. SE and 2nd St. SE. Water fountains that kids can run through and, by Nov. 2012, a skating rink are other features of the three block long park running from M St. SE north to I St. SE. The park is on 2 acres of federal land under District of Columbia jurisdiction and is part of the site of the historic Washington Canal, which joined the Potomac River, Tiber Creek and the Anacostia River. The National Capital Planning Commission approved the plan in 2010. Their website includes Staff Recommendations with many artists renderings of all parts of the park. www.ncpc.gov.



Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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A cannon recovered on the grounds during renovation is displayed in the Foundry Lofts lobby. It illustrates the past industrial use of the area to develop US Navy armaments

Foundry Lofts Apartments Now Leasing

Modern apartments are now leasing in a former Navy Yard industrial structure built during WWI. It was called the Pattern/Joiner shop, supporting the manufacture of large guns for warships.

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Lenten Programs at St. Dominic

The Lenten Schedule at St. Dominic Church at 6th & E St. SW includes Ash Wed. services on Wed. Feb. 22 and a series of Wed. daytime lectures on The Five Sorrowful Mysteries, starting Feb. 29.

Wed. evening soup and bread (in the Parish Meeting Room, Lower Level. Entrance at 630 E. St. SW) starting Feb. 22 at 6:30 pm will be hosted by Father Norman Haddad, O.P., former pastor of St. Dominic. Call him at 202-554-7863 for further information.

Religious Calendar

Galilee A.M.E. Church

Worshipping at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW
202-258-6812
Rev. S. Isaiah Harvin
Sunday: 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study
7:30 p.m.

Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of the Assemblies of God

60 I St. SW
202-251-5137
Pastor Fitzgerald Carter
Sunday: 10:45 a.m.; Friday Prayer and Bible Study: 8 p.m.

Carron Baptist Church

1354 First St., SW
202-484-3172
Pastor Lester W. Allen
Sunday: 11 a.m.
Tuesday: Noon Day Prayer, 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Friendship Baptist Church

900 Delaware Ave. SW
202-488-7417
Rev. Dr. J. Michael Little, Pastor
Sunday: 9:30 A.M, Sunday School; 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Service and Bible Study

Riverside Baptist Church

Seventh St. and Maine Avenue SW
202-554-4330
Pastor Michael Bledsoe, Ph.D.
Sunday: 10 a.m. with Bible Study at 9 a.m.

St. Matthew’s Baptist Church

1105 New Jersey Ave. SE
202-488-7298
Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington, Pastor
Sunday: 8 a.m. Sunday School; 9:05 a.m. Worship Service
Tuesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Second Baptist Church Southwest

First & M streets, SW
202-484-3112
Pastor C.L. Brown
Sunday: Church School 8:30 a.m.; Morning Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study noon and 7 p.m.

Second Union Baptist Church

1107 Delaware Ave. SW
202-484-7012
Rev. William Harrison, Pastor

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. Worship

St. Dominic Catholic Parish

603 E St. SW
202-554-7863
Fr. George Schommer
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Spanish), and 5:15 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

14 M St. SE
202-488-1354
Fr. Richard Gancayco
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Mon. and Fri.: 12:10 p.m.

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

600 M St. SW
202-554-3222
Rev. Martha Clark
marthakclark@yahoo.com
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church

Worshipping at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 Fourth St. NW at Judiciary Square
410-375-5053 (cell)
Pastor Phillip Huber
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: 6 p.m.: Bread and Soup, 6:45 p.m.
Evening Prayer

Christ United Methodist Church

900 Fourth St. SW
202-554-9117
Rev. Adrienne Terry
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Thursday: 12 noon & 6:30 p.m., Bible Study

St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church

401 I St., SE
202-997-3049
Rev. Karen Mills
Sunday: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 I St. SW
202-484-7700
Co-Pastors: Rev. Ruth Hamilton and Rev. Brian Hamilton
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.
Blue Monday Blues: 6 - 9 p.m.
Wellness Wednesday Yoga: 4 - 8 p.m.
Friday Jazz Nights: 6 - 9 p.m.

From SWNA President Kael Anderson

With the busy holiday community schedule, resignations on key Southwest Neighborhood Assembly leadership posts, and some intractable community challenges, I was growing weary. But upon reflecting over the past year’s accomplishments and some pleasant surprises the New Year has brought, it’s clear that I and the Assembly have much to be grateful for.

This past Saturday evening was emblematic. A concert was being performed by the R.O.C. ensemble. Jo Chang, SWNA’s treasurer and I had toiled over dozens of emails in an effort to create a fiscal structure that would allow the Friends of Southwest to bring them to St. Augustine’s Church. Not exactly looking forward to another evening in the community, I nevertheless went. And was I so ever glad. It was wonderful to see a standing-room-only gathering of people from diverse backgrounds and ages. A true community event. It was an event full of unique and compelling arrangements where the musicians literally filled the sanctuary with activity. Indeed attendees were giving a standing ovation after the first arrangement, not to mention the last.

And with that, I’m grateful: the Assembly has a new energetic and well-qualified Vice-President in Josh Perry, after the former resigned due to increased work commitments. Jo Chang recovered the Assembly from over \$10,000 in assessed IRS penalties, established a set of rigorous financial standards, and developed structures to support popular community organizations like the Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond. The Assembly benefits from the dedication of Laura Shin in the critically important but all-too-often under-appreciated role of Secretary; for each

of the Assembly’s district representatives. In various ways — whether via historical research, involvement the Southwester, board meeting deliberation, or even email blitzkriegs; for the Assembly’s task force chairs, including Cecile Winstead the new History chair and Ben Curran, chair of the newly-established Emergency Preparedness Task Force, which is well on its way to becoming a model for the city; we’ve been able to assemble a new group of leaders committed to figuring out how to carry on the Southwester legacy. And of course — Editor Emeritus Dale MacIver for helping create the January and February editions of the Southwester. As many of you now know, editors Tiffany and Erin resigned due to new professional commitments and unexpected personal challenges. for the leadership of Ron McBee as ANC Chair, who doggedly championed many well known and lesser known initiatives; for the dedication of Tommy Wells’ staffers Daniel Conner, Jonathan Kass, and Naomi Mitchell; to witness progress on rehabilitating, improving, and staffing King-Greenleaf Recreation Center; to be a leader of the effort to create an organization that’ll enable the revitalization of Lansburg Park; that Southwest has an organization, the Near SW-SE Community Benefits Coordinating Council working to ensure the area receives a fair and adequate share of community benefits; to the hundreds of people who’ve given me guidance, suggestions, and advice for how to best improve the Assembly and the Southwest community.

I’m grateful for too many things to recount in 400 words. Ultimately, I’m grateful to be part of a vibrant and diverse community with so many civic leaders and active citizens.

M STREET STUDY

From p. 1

vide us with a city-led transportation study addressing possible solutions to the daunting transportation challenges presented by our geographically constrained neighborhood and the number of massive construction projects unrivaled elsewhere in the District.

Our neighborhood has the District’s fastest growing area of employment, entertainment and residential growth. An exaggeration you say? Check out the development that we’ve absorbed in recent years: Nationals Park, the SW Waterfront, Waterside Mall, the Buzzard Point Plan, the new Arena Stage complex, the reopening of Fourth Street, the conversion of 42 acres at SE Federal Center, Federal Department of Transportation Building, the 23 acre Capper/Carrollsborg Project, the CSX Tunnel Project, both the new Frederick Douglass and Eleventh Street Bridges, the plan for a reconstructed at-grade South Capitol Street and a score of new residential, commercial and recreational facilities constructed on or adjacent to M Street.

Much of this corridor has now already been built, planned or is in process. And

over the next fifteen years our neighborhood is projected to have double the number of residents and triple the workforce. The city has decided to address this challenge not a moment too soon.

What we must insist is that DDOT will, at long last, provide us with a workable blueprint to demonstrate that the growth the District has embraced in our neighborhood is not inconsistent with streets and sidewalks that will get us to where we need to go in a secure and efficient manner; that our quality of life and public safety will not be compromised by an unremitting river of traffic; that we can finally appropriately link our adjacent communities along M Street, and that our residents will be protected from commuters who now view our neighborhood streets as their own private highways.

There will be two additional public meetings to gather public input in March and June. To access more information about this study contact: Colleen Hawkinson, District Department of Transportation, ddot.awi@dc.gov, 202-671-2228.

More information can be found at the project website www.ddot.dc.gov/MStreet-SESWStudy or by calling (202) 671-2228.

New Number for Time & Temperature

A new telephone number will now get you time, temperature and weather forecasts. Instead of Verizon’s old WE-6 number, call 589-1212.

The Council of Governments of Metropolitan Washington (COG) sponsors the new service, which includes an air quality report.



Marine Corps Brings Toys to SW Kids

By Meg Brinckman

On Dec. 21, the last day of school, the Marine Corps distributed toys to Amidon-Bowen children.

The children were greeted by Marine Corps officers Lt. Col. Jeff Holt, Lt. Col. Rick Fuerst, Lt. Col. J. R. Clearfield and Lt. Col. Andy Regan, who advised them on the selection of toys.

As each toy was chosen, Ms. Kara Kuchemba, Instructional Coach, made sure the child's name was written on the toy.

The local effort is led by Service Chair, Major General Joseph D. Brown, IV, USAF, Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at Fort Lesley J. McNair. ICAF is a primary component college of the National Defense University.



Traditional Winter Concert at Amidon-Bowen

By Meg Brinckman

The Preschool/Prekindergarten class sang "Jingle Bells." The kindergartners celebrated a Japanese Christmas with colorful umbrellas, lanterns and fish banners, and showed off their knowledge of Japanese language by greeting the audience with "Konnichiwa" (hello) and "Sayonara" (goodbye).

Ms. Young's first grade sang "Dreidel, Dreidel" and Ms. Buckner's first grade performed "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." The third grade marked Kwanzaa with a song with original lyrics written by their teacher,

Mr. Thomas. Each member of Mr. Sisk's fourth grade class told us their fondest wishes for the New Year.

The bell choir, playing Orff instruments, performed three selections, including the traditional Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslas."

The choir, directed by Ms. Para Perry, performed a broad selection of holiday music. Highlights were the traditional song, "Chanka Catch", which was signed for the hearing impaired by Ms. Jana Banks' class. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Children Go Where I Send Thee" were crowd pleasers.

Library Fine Amnesty Runs Until Feb. 5th

(From a release)

Until Sun., Feb. 5, 2012, the DC Public Library will forgive fines on overdue, lost or damaged books, CDs, DVDs, and other library materials. The campaign, titled "Check It In" aims to encourage users who have avoided the library because of outstanding fines or fees to return and use the library.

"Libraries exist to give people access to books," said Ginnie Cooper, chief librarian for the District of Columbia. "When fines and fees keep people away from the library, we need to find ways to encourage them to return. We

hope giving people amnesty from fines and fees will do just that."

To have a fine forgiven, cardholders can return overdue or damaged books or other library materials to any DC Public Library and speak with a library employee to update their account. For lost books, cardholders can speak with a library employee to have their account cleared. Your library card can be replaced at the desk.

The SW Public Library is at Wesley Place and K St. SW near 3rd St. SW. Phone: 202-724-4752. The SE Public Library is at 403 7th St SE near Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Phone: 202-698-3377.

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Notes on the Nats: Get Ready for a Winner

By Zev Feder

It may not be common knowledge yet, but the 2012 Washington Nationals are an exciting winning season waiting to happen. I am looking for two major areas of improvement in the team over the squad that finished in third place out of five in the National League East Division in 2011 with an 80 and 81 record.

First, the transformation of our starting pitching rotation:

This year's staff will be led by Steven Strasburg, now healthy after pitching in five games last September. After the successful surgical rehabilitation of his elbow, Strasburg is as good as advertised. He throws hard and has wicked movement on all his pitches and pinpoint control. Expect fireworks and a sold-out stadium when he pitches, as it was in 2010 before his injury.

Jordan Zimmermann, who was excellent in his sophomore season, is number two in the rotation. Zimmermann is a bulldog competitor and hard to score against. He brings a fine 3.18 earned run average (runs per nine innings) from last season. The Strasburg/Zimmermann duo, in and of itself, would be a reason for optimism because both players are talents that any team

The Washington Nationals open Spring Training in Florida against the Houston Astros on Saturday, March 3. For tickets or more information, visit nationals.com/spring.

would want on their starting pitching rotation.

2011 All-Star Gio Gonzalez, however, is the icing on the cake. Acquired from Billy Bean's Oakland Athletics in exchange for four of our top minor-league prospects (two of whom are last September's call-ups, Tom Milone and Brad Peacock, who I previously wrote about and will miss), Gonzalez has been a 15- and 16-game winner in each of the last two seasons for Oakland. Gonzalez, a left-handed pitcher with a sharp-breaking curveball, was adored by Oakland fans both for his pitching ability and his character.

That makes three top young starting pitchers on one team. Pitching in baseball has always been hugely important to team success - it's why the Phillies paid a gazillion cheese-steak subs to get the four-star starting rotation they had last year. Round out our rotation with two players

from a competing group that includes Chien-Ming Wang, John Lannan, Ross Detwiler, and possibly Tom Gorzelanny or Craig Stammen - who I especially like because he is a strong hitter as well - and you have a starting rotation that can compete with anyone.

Our relief pitching last season was top-notch and should only be stronger this coming season. Closer Drew Storen, All-Star Tyler Clippard and fireballer Henry Rodriguez (as in "Wild Thing, I Think I Love You") have all, at times, been unhittable. Ryan Mattheus and Craig Stammen were effective relievers and brought needed depth to a relief staff that carries the heavy workload of a modern baseball team. And Sean Burnett finished last season strong, again displaying the talent he showed in 2010. The bullpen is young, deep, talented and among the best in the game, and there are youngsters in the farm system coming up the pike.

Second, the lineup:

Ryan Zimmerman and Michael Morse are solid sluggers. Morse had a career-changing year, hitting .303 with 31 home runs. Mid-season he rediscovered his ability to hit with power to all fields and has become one of the most respected hitters in the league. Zimmerman lost some time with an injury but, as usual, ended

the season well, with a .289 average.

Recently the rumor mill has been following the free-agent sweepstakes which hints at the possible acquisition of slugger Prince Fielder. If that happens, it will put the Nationals on every sportswriter's radar across the country. I expect major improvement in the depth of our lineup regardless, even without such a big-name signing, because of the improvement of the young players returning from last season. The talent and energy of guys like Danny Espinosa, Ian Desmond, Roger Bernadina, Wilson Ramos and Jesus Flores lead me to expect growing success this year. I believe our 2011 lineup underperformed the production level that it is about to mature into, and I expect Jason Werth to improve too.

Possible, though certainly a long shot, is one dramatic wild card: Manager Davey Johnson has indicated that Bryce Harper could be given an opportunity in spring training to play his way onto the roster.

The 2011 Nationals progressed enough to climb out of the National League East cellar and into third place, but it was a gradual and quiet move that largely went unnoticed. This year's team will do nothing of the sort.

Jefferson Basketball - Girls, Boys

By Coach Ronald Hines

The Jefferson Middle School Girls' basketball team is in first place in the west division early in the season, losing only to Ron Brown Middle School. It has five returning players and is coached by Shawn Hart. Five out of the ten players are A & B students and are on the Honor Roll.

The Jefferson Boys' basketball team has five returning players and had a record of 4 and 2 during the first weeks. They have study Hall from 3:30 pm to 5 pm before practice during the week. Four of the team members are on the Honor Roll.



Above, members of the 2011-12 Jefferson Middle School Girls' Basketball Team are: Back row, left to right - Makayla Freeman, Daycia Foote, A'nas Barnes, Janice Williams. Bottom row, left to right, Desiree Lester, Ashia Greene, Maya Moye, Niah Frazier, Anya Davaguhn. Mona Richardson is not in the picture. (photo by Dale MacIver)



At left, members of the 2011-12 Jefferson Middle School Boys' Basketball Team are: Back row, left to right - Herbert Street, Michael Briscoe, Clint Broadus, Anthony Vines, Darius Pitts, Christian Staton, Justin McFadden. Bottom row, left to right: Fredrick Crowell, Makhi Freeman, Xavier Sumpter, Quinell Hargrove and Tevon Simmons. (photo by Dale MacIver)

Award for SWNA Taskforce Member Dr. Judith Sutter

On Dec. 1 2011, Mayor Vincent Gray awarded six community service awards, including one to Southwest resident Dr. Judith Sutter for Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety. Dr. Sutter is a member of the SWNA Emergency Preparedness Task Force.

The awards are given to "District residents who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to emergency preparedness and/or public safety through volunteerism and service".

Dr. Sutter is an active volunteer and instructor for the District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a volunteer program that trains citizens to be better prepared to respond to emergencies in their communities. Dr. Sutter has taught psychological first aid and disaster mental health to CERT volunteers and first responders. She is also a member of the DC Medical Reserve Corps.

SWNA Hears About Senior Villages

At its Jan. 23 meeting SWNA heard from Dr. John Thompson, Director of the DC Dept. of Aging, about Senior Villages. Dr. Baccouche Aziza discussed interesting students in Math and Science.

February Events at Three Museums on Independence Ave SW

(From releases)

This Feb., several Smithsonian museums on Independence Ave. SW will offer three events that celebrate the month in unique, fun-filled ways.

AN EXCITING EVENING

Africa Underground: Black women in African and African-American history.

WHAT: An evening at the National Museum of African Art gives revelers the chance to enjoy foods, refreshments and dance and experience the museum's exhibitions, ambiance and performances at the museum after hours.

WHERE: National Museum of African Art, 950 Independence Ave. SW

WHEN: Fri. Feb. 24, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

COST: This is a ticketed event. For pricing and information call (202) 633-4600 or visit the National Museum of African Art's website at africa.si.edu.

A DELIGHTFUL WEEKEND

The Power of Chocolate

WHAT: Visitors can delight in the rich history of one of the world's favorite flavors at the annual two-day Power of Chocolate Festival. Taste free samples from the Historic Division of Mars and the museum's Zagat-rated Mitsitam Cafe (while supplies last) and learn about the fascinating history and surprising health benefits of cacao during food demonstrations and lectures. Hands-on workshops and activities for families will also be offered.

WHEN: Sat./Sun. Feb. 11/12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: The National Museum of the American Indian, at 4th & Independence Ave. SW (entrance at 300 Maryland Ave.

SW)

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: <http://www.american-indian.si.edu/>

AN INSPIRING DAY

Family Day: African-American Pioneers in Aviation

WHAT: African-American Pioneers in Aviation Day is dedicated to the accomplishments of African-American aviation pioneers of the past and present. Visitors can meet a distinguished panel of local Tuskegee Airmen who will discuss their struggles and the history of the African-American World War II fighter group. The day also includes hands-on activities, book signings, and appearances by current scientists, pilots, and engineers.

WHEN: Sat. Feb. 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: National Air and Space Museum, Independence Ave at 6th St., SW

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/>

HOW TO GET THERE:

MetroRail/MetroBus:

The museums are located near Metro stops on the Blue, Orange, Yellow and Green lines. The closest stations are: L'Enfant Plaza (Exit Maryland Avenue/ Smithsonian Museums) and Smithsonian. See the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority web site at <http://www.wmata.com/> for an interactive trip planner and latest bus connections.

Driving and Parking:

Limited metered street parking is available. Please read signs carefully for parking hours and permit restrictions. Parking is available in several local lots, including two blocks south of the museum at 4th and C Sts. (under the Holiday Inn).

"Elephant Room" At Arena Stage

Expect the unexpected and enjoy a break from winter woes with Arena Stage's February offering, "Elephant Room."

A trio of semi-pro conjurors--Dennis Diamond, Daryl Hannah and Louie Magic--bring their absurdist magic show to D.C. A combination of a Styx reunion tour with the transcendental power of a 200-year-old Zuni shaman and an added dash of trailer park ennui.

WHAT: Elephant Room

WHERE: Arena Stage's Kogod Cradle

WHEN: Sundays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays

at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays at 2:00 p.m.; Thursday 1/26 & Wednesday 2/15 at noon. Production runs until Feb. 26.

SOUTHWEST NIGHT IS FEB. 21 AT 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: All tickets are \$40, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. Tickets can be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St. SW.

PERRY

From p. 4

to join the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) where she was employed for over 30 years before retiring as a senior policy analyst.

Dr. Perry was an outspoken voice for ten-

ant's rights and lobbied local elected officials while a long-time board member for Washington, DC's Tenant's Advocacy Coalition (TENAC). She also served as President of the Waterside Towers Tenant's Association Board of Directors. She was one of the first tenants in the "B" building and lived there for the last 40 years of her life.

SW Emergency Preparedness Leaps into Action!

Community Meeting – February 29, 2012 Leap Day

By Ben Curran

The Southwest Emergency Preparedness Taskforce is on the move and we need YOU to get onboard with us. Our first community meeting was held at Amidon Elementary School December 8th with about 25 SW neighbors attending. The next community meeting will be Wednesday, February 29th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Southwest Library. We will have a speaker from the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) discuss "Emergency Response Planning and Emergency Evacuations in DC". We will also discuss the work of the SW Emergency Preparedness Taskforce, and invite interested people to join in. We hope to see you at our February 29th meeting.

We are in the process of building a "SW Neighborhood Corps" – a community based organization that will focus on providing training opportunities and preparedness guidance to the community, and providing community coordinating services in the event of a disaster in SW DC. We will be providing Community Emergency Response Team and American Red Cross and other training throughout the coming year. We need carpenters and plumbers, school teachers and medical assistants, grandparents and young people; whatever your skill, interest, or talent, we need you! If you want to help our community to prepare, respond and recover from the next event, please either join our general team or one of the many smaller teams. If you are interested, send an email to: Ben Curran benimon@hotmail.com or Judi Sutter: jsutter.swprepare@gmail.com.

Police, Citizen Discussion

By John McGrath

The DC Community Court for Misdemeanor and Traffic Offenses and the recommended use of whistles instead of pepper spray to ward off an attack were two of the topics at the Dec. 15 Police Service Area 104 meeting at Carrollsburg Condominium.

Among the participants were: Lt. Nicholas Gallucci, Sgt. Michael Architzel, MPO Maurice Thompson, and other officers of PSA 104; Public Housing Police; Naomi Monk and Irv Gamza, PSA 104 meeting coordinators/facilitators; Douglas Klein, Assistant U.S. Attorney (1D). Twenty-six attended in total.

Lt. Gallucci and Sgt. Architzel discussed several topics. PSA 104 has been reorganized and the new designation, PSA 105, became effective Jan. 1. Its boundaries will be slightly smaller to the north and east which should result in a reduction in the number of reported crimes for our PSA. The number of sergeants has been reduced from four to three (each eight hour shift is headed by a sergeant with three patrol "beats").

Police representatives also shared recent crime statistics. Robbery and assault with a deadly weapon are up slightly while theft of and from autos is down for the month of November 2011. Burglary remains up for the year. Police resource deployment priorities include the 1300 block of 1st St. SW, the 200 block of K St. SW, as well as 300 O St. SW (O St. SW Circle).

Other important takeaways from the meeting came up in response to audience questions: (1) the DC Police Department recommends the hiring of off-duty police officers instead of private security; (2) the possession and use of MACE or pepper spray is legal if registered with the police department (this can be done through the merchant who sells the product)

but police recommend the use of sound-emitting devices such as whistles as they are safer and equally effective at warding off an attack; and (3) when requesting towing from a private parking space or fire lane, an owner or resident/manager must sign the ticket provided by the police; the police do not act independently.

Douglas Klein, from the Office of the DC Attorney General, discussed the new Community Court for the First Police District. Lesser offenses and first-time offenders will be diverted to the Community Court from the D.C. Superior Court (the court is administered by a judge from the Superior Court). Typically the court hands down lesser sentences such as community service or referral to drug treatment. The court will address adult offenders only; juvenile offenders are handled separately by the DC Attorney General.

MPO Thompson was commended for his years of service to PSA 104; he will retire shortly. Drawing from his many years of experience, he offered the following advice: to avoid becoming the victim of crime, be aware of your surroundings, especially when using electronic devices and cell-phones on the street. Phones and electronic devices are prime targets for street robbers. When in doubt about a possible threat, call 911 and provide identifying information such as clothing. He also noted that the GPS feature of many cell phones can be used to locate them if they are stolen.

In addition to calling 311 to report pot holes and broken street lights, you can also try visit washingtonpost.com and use the "Quick Fix" reporting feature.

Next Meeting: Thurs. Jan. 19, 7-8:30 P.M., River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. Call the River Park Front Desk at 202-484-3180 or press #999 at any entry gate.

Cello, Piano and Flute at Concert Jan. 31

By David Ehrlich

Our next SWCP program will be Tues. Jan. 31, at 7:30 pm at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 6th and M St. SW. Concerts are free. Donations welcome.

Players will be John Kaboff, cello; Brad Clark, piano; and Heidi Schuller, flute.

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